Amendments to the Claims

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) An irrigation system comprising:

each of an irrigation controller and a water application device physically situated at a location of a user, the controller at least partially controlling the water application device;

a distal computer remote from the user location;

a first communication system that exchanges information between the irrigation controller and the distal computer;

a second communication system that exchanges information between the irrigation controller and the user;

a third communication system that exchanges information between the user and the distal computer;

a fourth communication system that exchanges information between the distal computer and a ~~third party~~ legal person other than the user; and

wherein each of the first communication system, the third communication system, and the fourth communication system comprise a public packet switched network.

2. (Currently amended) The irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the exchange of information between each of the irrigation controller and the distal computer, the irrigation controller and the user, the user and the distal computer; and the distal computer and ~~a third party~~the legal person other than the user, are bi-directional.

3. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising a microprocessor disposed in the irrigation controller, that facilitates the exchange of information between the irrigation controller and the distal computer.

4. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising a microprocessor disposed in a second unit separate from the irrigation controller, that facilitates the exchange of information between the irrigation controller and the distal computer.

5. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising a storage device that stores data at the user location.

6. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the second communication system comprises a public, packet switched network.

7. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1 wherein the first communication system comprises a two-way pager.

8. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1 wherein the first communication system comprises a web page interface.

9. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the second communication system comprises a dedicated link between the controller and a personal computer.

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10. (Currently amended) A method of operating an irrigation system comprising:

physically situating each of an irrigation controller and a water application device at a location of a user;

utilizing the controller to at least partially control the water application device;

providing a first communication system comprising a public packet switched network;

coupling the irrigation controller and a distal computer using the first communication system;

coupling the irrigation controller and the user using a second communication system;

<u>coupling the distal computer and a legal person other than the user using a third communication system;</u>

the user entering landscape irrigation operating information into the irrigation controller using the second communication system; and

the irrigation controller causing at least a portion of the landscape irrigation operating information to be transmitted to the distal computer using the first communication system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of entering the landscape irrigation operating information comprises the user entering the landscape irrigation operating

information into a personal computer, and the personal computer transmitting the information to the irrigation controller via the second communication system.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
providing the controller with a microprocessor programmed to receive additional information from the distal computer via the first communication system; and
the microprocessor determining an irrigation schedule based at least in part on the landscape irrigation operating information from the user, and the additional information from the distal computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
providing the controller with local water usage data; and
the microprocessor determining an irrigation schedule based at least in part on the water usage data.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of determining an irrigation schedule further includes the microprocessor computing a desired quantity of water to be applied to a landscape at the user's location for a specific period of time.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the period of time is at least one day.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~12 wherein the additional information from the distal computer includes weather data, and further comprising the microprocessor computing an ETo value.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the microprocessor comparing the ETo value to the desired quantity of water applied to the landscape.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~12, wherein the water usage data includes water pressure data.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~10, further comprising coupling the user and the distal computer using a third communication system;

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~10 further comprising the microprocessor sending a warning to the user via the second communication system when an aspect of the irrigation system falls outside of a predetermined parameter.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~10 further comprising the microprocessor preventing an operation of the irrigation system when the irrigation system falls outside of ~~the~~ a predetermined parameters.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~10 wherein the information transmitted to the distal computer comprises a calculated estimate of water actually applied at a station for a time period.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the information transmitted to the distal computer further includes a relationship between the calculated estimate of water actually applied at a station for a time period, and a computed ETo for the station for the time period.

25. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising sending information from the distal computer to the legal person, such information including irrigation operating information.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the irrigation operating information includes at least one of an irrigation start time, an irrigation run time, an irrigation water flow value, and an irrigation water pressure value.